

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - DETENTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: GENEVA 1398

1. USSR REP (ZORIN) REQUESTED MEETING WITH US
REP (HOFFMAN) A.M. MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS SOVIET DRAFT RES
ON PEACE, DETENTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. AT THE MEETING
ZORIN STRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE US AND USSR DELEGATIONS TO ACHIEVE AN ACCEPTABLE
TEXT. HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE SO LONG
AS THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED NO LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD
CONFLICT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER. WE
TOLD AMB. ZORIN THAT WE HAD AS YET RECEIVED NO
SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. RECALLING THAT UK AMENDMENTS
INTRODUCED LAST YEAR WERE STILL BEFORE THE COMMISSION,
WE ASKED ZORIN WHETHER HE HAD ANY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES
WITH THEM. ZORIN ASSERTED THAT SOME OF THE UK
PROPOSALS APPEAR TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER PRINCIPLES.
HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SINCE THE GOVT OF THE UK
HAD CHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR, THE UK DEL MIGHT BE
EXPECTED TO MODIFY THEIR AMENDMENTS TO BRING THEM
CLOSER TO THE USSR DRAFT RESOLUTION. ZORIN ALSO
MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT THE FACT THAT PRIME
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MINISTER WILSON HAD JUST VISITED MOSCOW. WE TOLD

ZORIN THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO TALK TO HIM FURTHER AS SOON AS WE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS.

2. THE REVISED UK AMENDMENTS REPORTED REFTEL HAD NOT YET BEEN CIRCULATED AT THE TIME OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH ZORIN. AFTER REPORTING ZORIN'S REMARKS ABOUT LAST YEAR'S AMENDMENTS TO UK DEL, UK DEL INFORMED US THAT REVISED AMENDMENTS HAD RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF LONDON AND HAD BEEN SUBMITTED FOR CIRCULATION. UK DEL HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PRESSING THEIR AMENDMENTS BECAUSE OF THE PROMINENT ROLE PLAYED BY THE UK DEL IN DEFLECTING THE SOVIET INITIATIVE ON CHILE. THE UK FOREIGN OFFICE FEELS THAT THE UK DEL SHOULD AVOID PLAYING THE ROLE OF ANTI-USSR PROTAGONIST IN THE HRC. IN THIS CONNECTION, UK DEL HAS REQUESTED US DEL TO MAKE STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO USSR DRAFT.

3. COMMENT: US DEL CONSIDERS THAT THE PREFERRED OUTCOME WOULD BE TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THE USSR DRAFT RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENTS TO IT, AS WAS DONE LAST YEAR. THIS MAY NOT, HOWEVER, BE FEASIBLE BECAUSE ENOUGH TIME REMAINS TO CARRY ON THE DISCUSSION ANOTHER TWO OR THREE MEETINGS. US DEL HAS HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING AFRICAN DELEGATIONS, THE POINT OF VIEW THAT BECAUSE ZORIN SUFFERED A DEFEAT ON THE CHILE RESOLUTION, THE COMMISSION SHOULD IN THIS CASE BE WILLING TO BE MORE ACCOMMODATING TO THE USSR POSITION. DALE

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